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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: **Hisatoshi HIRATA**

Group Art Unit: **3744**

Serial No.: **10/720,167**

Examiner: *to be assigned*

Filed: **November 25, 2003**

Confirmation No. **4326**

For: **REFRIGERATION SYSTEM AND METHOD OF OPERATION  
THEREFOR**

Attorney Docket No.: **032133**

Customer Number: **38834**

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.97(b)**

**Mail Stop Amendment**

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

May 27, 2004

Sir:

Applicant directs the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office to the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. A copy of each listed document is attached.

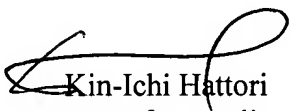
No fee or certification is required in connection with this Information Disclosure Statement, because it is being submitted prior to the issuance of a first official action on the merits or expiration of the three month period following the filing date or the entry of the national stage of the above-captioned application.

The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office can, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. Applicants respectfully request that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application

and that the documents cited in the attached Form PTO-1449 be made of record therein and appear on the first page of any patent to issue therefrom.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 50-2866 for any fee that is required to effect consideration of this statement.

Respectfully submitted,  
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**INFORMATION  
DISCLOSURE  
CITATION  
PTO-1449**

Atty. Docket No. 032133

Serial No. 10/720,167

Applicant(s): Hisatoshi HIROTA

Filing Date: November 25, 2003

Group Art Unit: 3744

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initial	Document No.	Name	Date	Class	Subclass	Filing Date (If appropriate)
	2002/011073 A1	Flynn	1/31/02	62	129	6/21/01
	5,996,369 A	Hirota	12/7/99	62	324.6	2/10/98
	6,244,059 B1	Hill	6/12/01	62	193	1/28/00

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initial	Document No.	Date	Country	Translation (Yes or No)

**OTHER DOCUMENTS**

		Copy of European Search Report dated March 12, 2004
Examiner		Date Considered